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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Introduced By: Senators Euer, Appollonio, McKenney, Sosnowski, Zurier, Vargas,
Lauria, DiMario, Murray, and Kallman
Date Introduced: April 16, 2025
Referred To: Senate Commerce

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 39-1 of the General Laws entitled "Public Utilities Commission" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:
- 3 **39-1-64. Gas and electric utility customer bills.**
- 4 (a) Each electric distribution company as defined by § 39-1-2(a) and each gas distribution
5 company included as a public utility as defined in § 39-1-2(a) shall provide a copy of the form,
6 content, and design of proposed bills to be sent to customers.
- 7 (b) The commission shall have the authority at any time to review the form, content, and
8 design of electric and/or gas bills used by any gas or electric utility for billing customers and require
9 any modifications that the commission finds:
- 10 (1) Are in the public interest; or
- 11 (2) Would in the commission's discretion be beneficial for the advancement of any
12 significant energy or environmental policy initiatives in law or regulatory policy determined by the
13 commission.
- 14 (c) If any modification(s) ordered by the commission pursuant to the provisions of
15 subsection (b) of this section should require significant billing system changes, the commission
16 shall provide a reasonable amount of time for the gas or electric utility to make the required
17 modifications.
- 18 (d) To the extent that a gas or electric utility makes material changes to the form, content,
19 or design of the bills sent to customers, the gas or electric utility shall file a copy of the new bill

1 [with the commission with a complete explanation of the changes. The filing is not required to be](#)
2 [made prior to implementation, but shall be made no later than sixty \(60\) days after any material](#)
3 [change has been put into effect for billing. The commission shall open a docket to receive public](#)
4 [comment and, if necessary, hold hearings to review the change.](#)

5 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 This act would require that electric and gas companies provide a copy of the form, content
2 and design of their bills to the public utility commission (PUC). The act would also authorize the
3 public utilities commission to review the form, content, and design of electric and gas bills and
4 require any modifications that the commission finds (1) would be in the public interest, or (2) would
5 be beneficial to any significant energy or environmental policy initiative.

6 This act would change the utility company billing practices so that when a gas or electric
7 utility makes a material change to their customer billing, they would be required to file a copy of
8 the new bill with the PUC, with a complete explanation of the changes, within sixty (60) days after
9 implementation. The PUC would also open a docket to receive public comment and, if necessary,
10 hold hearings to review the changes.

11 This act would take effect upon passage.

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